

WALES IN THE TELTSCHER: DUBLIN – May 2015

This is the eighth running of what is affectionately known as the Seniors Camrose – the competitors being the five nations that compete the Camrose plus a team labelled “Patron” and this year Irish in its basis. The trophy for the competition has been given by Bernard Teltscher, and that gives the competition its name.

The Welsh team were winners of this trophy in 2011 but last year had ended in 4th place, just below average. The team for 2015 has four from last year – Patrick Jourdain with Patrick Shields, John Salisbury with Mike Tedd – plus Tony Disley with Roger Penton. Ann Hirst has returned as NPC this year (with Mike in support). The event is run as ten 14-board matches, playing each of the other teams once and then again (in a different order).

WALES & SCOTLAND. Wales had had a decent win and a large loss against Scotland last year and fielded Disley-Penton and Salisbury-Tedd for this first match. In some ways it seems a dull set of boards – three with identical scores in 6 rooms, two near flat, four with a single anomaly – but there were others with minor swings and these two big boards

A7 -- QJ654 KQT952	95432 864 T982 3	JT86 AT75 3 8764	East dealt at both vulnerable and passed and South opened a strong bid, usually 2C (but once an Acol 2H, and once a multi 2D). The simplest auction was Roger Penton's 3C overcall, raised to 5C by Tony Disley. South doubled and the Scot sitting North led a trump to his partner's ace. A spade switch at this point beats 5C but he continued trumps and when two ruffs brought the diamond suit home, Roger clocked up +750.
	KQ KQJ932 AK7 AJ		In the other room John Salisbury showed a very strong balanced hand as South and played in 2N against silent opposition, down 200.
			The other two declarers in 5C by West got a heart lead, making life easy. Against England's 2C opener it went 2N-P-5C-X, which seems a normal sequence but Tony Forrester was aware enough of the dangers to lead the SK and not the HK here, and he had an easy one off. The Irish bid up to 5H and were doubled and one off.

And the last board of the set was

-- AJ987 J974 KJ53	T87 KQ52 AT2 T86	9643 643 653 974	South opened a strong bid here, usually 2C but again Rex Anderson for Northern Ireland was there with an Acol two bid (2S). Four tables bid up to 6S and with South declarer and the North hand in sight, all Wests played the HA on the first round of the suit – leading to a swift +980. Flat this way in the Wales match.
	AKQJ52 T KQ8 AQ2		The one North playing 6S (Mike MacDonagh for Ireland) – his response to 2C had been 2S showing 3 controls – was treated to a blind club lead and that was a killer.
			The slam can be made even if West ducks the heart, as West can eventually be thrown in with the top heart to lead from the CK. The cases where West came into the auction made this a viable choice, but no declarer was tested.

The final scores in the match were 13-31 in favour of Scotland, while England beat Patrons by 38 imps and Ireland beat the North by 8 imps.

WALES & IRELAND. Last year we had beaten this team and drawn with them, but they had won the event and were back hoping for a repeat. In fact, they played very steadily against us, and got everything right (when they were tested). Their strong club system suited this hand

KQJ K AT986 AJ72	AT543 QJ652 KQ 9	They bid 1C(strong)-1S(3 controls)-1N(strong flat!)-2H(spades)-2S-3H-3S-4D(cue)-4H(cue)-4N and on to slam. Wales started as did England with 1D-1S-2C-2H(fourth suit, GF)-3S but then Wales bid 4S-P while England bid 4D and on to slam. The other three tables stopped in game, and Wales lost 11 imps on the hand.
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The Irish did get one defence wrong, and so did everyone else – but perhaps it can be done ...

KQ 986542 3 8753	AJT8743 T3 QJ7 K	96	The auction started from North with 1S-2C-2D and the most common choice for West was 4C. Despite minimal values the small diamond fit propelled most Norths into bidding 4S and there the auction ended. [The cheap 5C option was not taken up by any] East started with the CA and mostly switched to the HA and HJ, hoping partner might have the SA. Declarer played ace and another trump and could ruff the club continuation to get back to take the diamond finesse (the third diamond discarded on the last top heart). But if East had continued clubs, and rises with the HA on the first round, when West gets in with trumps – another heart puts declarer in dummy with no way off, apart from leading away from the DA. And so 4S could be beaten.
	52	AJ	
	KQ7	KT8	
	A96542	AQ9642	
	JT		

This was a very difficult hand

J753 AKQ3 AQ K73	Q82 92 97 AQJT85	KT6	One North played 3C and was happy to make 7 tricks. Three pairs played in hearts (4H twice, 3H once) all one down. The fascinating contract was 3NT played twice by West, South having bid diamonds. Declarer has to set up two spade tricks to add to the CK and 6 red tricks, so he has to lose two spades first. This gives the defence time to set up lots of tricks in one of clubs or diamonds, so the successful line involves losing the <i>second</i> spade to the hand short in the suit they have attacked and hence without the set-up defensive tricks. So on a club lead you duck the first round of spades to South's 9 and on the second round of the suit play to the ten and ace. On a diamond lead you lead to the ST on the first round, win a diamond continuation, clear the hearts, cash SK, and lose a spade to the Q which will now endplay North to let you make the CK. Can you find the defence? After a D lead, declarer's S play can stop South's diamond suit being a threat, but then South can switch to clubs while North has a spade entry coming. Best defence was missed both times; the Welsh declarer missed the winning line but Norman Selway made 3NT (the BBO record doesn't show how).
	A94	J875	
	T64	842	
	KJT653	962	
	4		

At the end of the match we found Wales had lost 0-57, which is the minimum needed for a 0-20 loss; Ireland moved into the lead and Wales were at the bottom of the table.

WALES & ENGLAND. This match went Wales' way with 6 swings in and only one above 2 imps out – and that was a guess between two suits at the end of the hand (while others chose to guess at trick one and got it right – weird). It was a surprise so many fell at this hurdle

A3	T874	Four tables ended in 3N, despite South showing clubs and the contract had no chance. The most common sequence started 2N-P-3C-X, and while there is one stop, that was not enough.
AJ7	KT86	
KQT975	J83	
KQ	T8	

but the big hand of the set (perhaps of the weekend) was this one

KQ9532 KQJT42 -- 6	AJ 9 KJT932 T853	T8 A8653 Q865 K2	The most successful East-West auction was by the Patrons team. After two passes and 1C from South, Donal Garvey overcalled 1S and heard it go 2D-P-3D; he now tried again with 3H. Over the 5D jump by David Greenwood, Donal's partner Pat Quinn felt he had to bid 5H, and that went P-P-X. Doubling the vulnerable opponents at the 5-level with three aces is usually OK, but here it wasn't and it cost -850.
	764		The auction when Mike Tedd, sitting North for Wales, passed as dealer went P-P-1C-2C(majors) and Mike found a good 3D (fit jump) bid which was followed by 4H-5D-5H. Mike passed this round to partner who judged well to sacrifice in 6C. John Salisbury got a top spade lead, ran the C8 at trick two before finding the DQ to make his 12 tricks. A score of +1090 the other way.
	7		
	A74		
	AQJ974		

The other four auctions were these

NS=PATRONS,EW=NI	NS=ENG, EW=WAL	NS=IRE, EW=SCO	NS=SCO, EW=IRE
P - P - 1C - 3C 3D - 4H - 5D - 5H 6D - X - P - end	3D - P - 4C - 4D 4S - 5H - 5N - 6H P - P - 6N - P 7C - X - P - end	3D - P - 5D - 6D P - 6H - 7D - X P - P - P - end	3D - P - 5D - 5H P - 6H - P - end
The 3C overcall was Ghestem showing the majors, after which everything was natural. This went one down.	<i>4S showed excitement having heard 4C, and 5N/6N were pick a slam bids. While 6H is easily off, 7C had an unusual upside (see below). But Patrick Jourdain led the HQ and his partner overtook with the HA, recognised the unusual nature of the lead, and gave him a diamond ruff. After that Tony Forrester got the clubs right to be only 2 down.</i>	<i>Here Ireland took out insurance, despite holding two aces, showing respect for the 6-level cue bid made by Danny Kane. Against 7D the lead was the CK (to the surprise of many) and declarer won the ace. He crossed to the DK next and could not avoid now being down two.</i>	<i>Against this auction Charles Outred started with the SA, and judged well to play a club next (anything else lets the slam make). There is a good reason for doing this, since partner is very likely to have three diamonds for the leap to the five level.</i>

Notice how three tables could not resist opening 3D in first seat at green. The only concern with opening 3D with those minors in first seat is that the spade holding might well make the hand too strong. Which is probably why two players sitting South sacrificed over 6H !

And it could have been so right for Ireland – if their man had picked out the shape which a 6D bid really ought to be, then he could have crossed to the CT at trick two and run the DJ, picking the suit up without loss and making the 13 tricks for a doubled grand slam – scoring +1630 in place of -300. Similarly in 7C, if the lead had been a top spade, then there were 13 tricks for Tony Forrester to take (run C8, then run DJ and continue diamonds) – so well chosen, Patrick Jourdain!

Wales gained 16 imps here, the Patrons got 13 imps and Scotland a mere 9. But over the match as a whole, the North beat the Patrons by 19 imps and Scotland took Ireland by 47-2, and Wales beat England by 34 imps. Scotland had moved into the lead in the overall table.

WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND. The next match did not prove as interesting. There were mishaps at both tables, with games making or going off when they shouldn't, and Wales conceding two unnecessary 500 penalties. This Northern Ireland disaster gave Wales a bonus – but it was a close thing

3 AJ62 AK96 AQ97	AQJT64 QT7 T3 54	The Irish started with a multi-2D which got a 3H response (pass or correct). The 3N which followed actually showed a short club, and the leap to 6S was into a making slam (clubs and heart finesses are both right) but the opener panicked and bid 6N which could not be made. Wales gained 14 imps when one bid earlier they were losing 13 !
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Wales came away winners by 7 imps. Scotland were still in the overall lead, ahead of Ireland.

WALES & PATRONS. This was the weakest team but they had beaten Scotland soundly in round two, and Wales was soon to find out they knew how to play cards! The Patrons started off with this

AK943	QJT7	They bid it very simply – 1N, pass, 3N, end – and they were the only people in the only making game. Two tables tried 4S but there was no revoke to let it make. This cost Wales 10 imps and we never caught up again.
K98	AQ4	
A8	T43	
T86	975	

This hand was interesting but not so exciting

	AT973		North usually opened 1S in third seat after two passes and we know that England, Ireland and Scotland overcalled 2C, which meant that after South doubled they ended playing in 3C. South started off as you'd expect with two top spades which were allowed to hold.
	76		
	K732		
	K5		
K65		842	The diamond switch seems natural next and Charles Outred ducked this and won the continuation. He now played a third spade, aiming to end play the opener and make the contract if both kings were onside. But not today. ☹️ Padriag O'Briain did the same thing, but David Kendrick did better – ducking the first diamond, winning the next and playing a heart. South could win the HK but the entry was there to finesse in clubs and the fourth heart took care of the spade loser. This was a good choice, as South had suggested hearts with the double and was likely to hold a king to justify his bid.
QJT2		A94	
T9		A6	
Q843		AJT92	
	QJ		
	K853		
	QJ854		
	76		

Scotland lost this match, but so did Ireland and at the half way mark it was Scotland in the lead over Ireland, and Northern Ireland were sitting just ahead of England. Patrons were in last place.

WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND. The first match of the second round robin saw us play a team whom we had only just beaten the first time. But this time, apart from losing 7 imps when they might have gained 5, Wales collected points consistently and won by 47 imps. The most interesting issues were a couple of defensive problems.

The first was at trick one against 5C-doubled, bid over your 4H game : the question is how you signal with KQJ97 when partner leads the ace and dummy hits with the singleton 8. The two defenders who chose the H9 and the H7 didn't realise that from partner's perspective this might be your lowest heart. So two defenders switched to diamonds and let the contract through. Pat McDevitt dropped the HK and his partner switched to spades to beat the contract. The next was curious in a few ways ...

	J98 K873 AKQ2 J4		North opened 1N, showing a variety of strengths at different tables. Over a 14-16 opening by David Greenwood, Patrick Shields decided that defending 1N was the best way of a maximum plus, but a trick slipped by and he only collected +200.
T64 QT654 J93 T2		AKQ7 A92 85 AKQ6	When West doubled South ran in one room and West in the other. South's 2C drifted three off (again no double - presumably it would be takeout) while Wests 2H was raised to game. Against this game Mike Tedd started off with three top diamonds, the last one ruffed. Declarer tried HA and H9, and Mike found the winning play of ducking this – if he takes it he is end-played to let West regain the lead! After that declarer was one off.
	53 J T764 98753		

Wales moved up into 4th place after this win, while Scotland lost to Ireland who now took the overall lead.

WALES & PATRONS. Second try ! This match started off badly and didn't get any better. Three teams – including Wales – went overboard on this hand

AQ86	93	The auctions we know started 1C-1H but then diverged. Scotland and Wales proceeded with 2S over which the former got a 3C response and the latter a 3H response. Both ended in 6C. England also ended too high – in 5H going one off. Gains to Ireland, Patrons and the North. How should it be bid? – answers on a postcard please ...
A	KJT963	
AT2	96	
KQJ32	A65	

The only hand with a little interest was this part-score

7 AKT7 KT4 98654	KT943 J6 A9 KT32	Q852 Q843 J76 AJ	Wales and England both reached 3H by East after North-South stopped in 2S and West protected with a double. [The others who opened were allowed to play in 2S]. Neither South wanted to lead a spade, and Patrons chose a diamond which went to the ace, while Pat McDevitt chose a trump for Ireland. The latter left Brian Senior with no chance, but after the DA won trick one and the CA won trick two, Patrick Shields had a chance.
	AJ6 975 Q8532 Q7		Even two diamond tricks and one club means six trump tricks are needed – which is impossible to arrange. The only chance for an extra trick was clubs, so he drew two trumps and played to the CJ. South could win but playing spades isn't good enough now as declarer can ruff clubs in hand to set the suit up. In fact he tried a trump to stop that but now one ruff and then the diamond finesse and giving up a club was enough to set up the long club as the ninth trick.

This loss changed the rankings in only one respect (the Patrons moved ahead of Northern Ireland), but having only just reached average, Wales had fallen back below that.

WALES & SCOTLAND. The opening board here produced some amazing bidding sequences –

-- J65432 KQJT92 3	A 8 A863 AKQJ842	KQ96432 AKT -- 976	It looks like only England and Wales started with 1C as North, the others all choosing a strong opening. After 2C-4S, the Norths concerned felt they had to bid 5C, but where the Patrons team only overcalled 2S against Ireland, opener could bid 3NT and he did (and he made it).
	JT875 Q97 754 T5		David Greenwood's multi 2D (treating the hand as an Acol two in clubs) got a 2S overcall, and when the overcaller sacrificed over 3N and got doubled, his partner thought 5D would be better; when that was doubled, he was held there to five trumps and the top hearts for -800. For the second time this weekend (see match 3), a Hastings (1066 shape) was very bad news for England.
			The 1C openers both got a 1S overcall and when this was passed round to Brian Senior he naturally bid 3N; West thought it worth sacrificing but didn't know which red suit to bid, so he bid 4C to let his partner choose. Brian drew trumps. After 1C-1S-P, Vi Outred for Scotland bid 2D, a transfer showing hearts. That made bidding 3N awkward, and Patrick Shields improvised with a jump to 3H (in the style of a Western Cue) and heard it go 3S-P-P. He tried 3N just in case partner had a heart stop and when it went P-P-P, the HK lead was rather worrying but it all turned out fine and he clocked up +400.

This hand yielded 11 imps for each of Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Wales had two more double figure swings in this set; one was where a weak 1N in first seat got P-3N-end and it was only at this table that the long, strong heart suit was not on lead, and that suit would beat the contract every day.

And then on the last board, Shields (like Senior for England) offered a double of 4D on a suit of KT753 after the bidding started on their left with 1S-P-4D. In fact the sacrifice was too expensive but when Patrick Jourdain did sacrifice opposite with KJ9 – 2 – Q9864 – T652, it was the winning action as the next hand couldn't resist bidding 5S and that was too high. It is hard to criticise bidding on with Q863 – A98763 – void – A87 opposite a five card major opening, but there were 3 losers and that was (when he went two off) 11 imps to Wales.

This was a sound win (16-4) and Wales had moved up to almost exactly average. The leading teams (Ireland & Scotland) had both lost and the top four teams all had chances with two matches to go.

WALES & ENGLAND. This was clearly an important match and it had swings galore ... the first being

85 AKJ
KJT Q6
Q82 AKJ97
K7542 AT6

Only England and Scotland got to the right level here, since slam in 6D is excellent – but England played in 6C. They got lucky when the defender ruffed in early with their trump trick and so didn't know to play hearts, so when the spade finesse worked, all the heart losers went away from the weak hand and the slam made. Had the defender waited to ruff, partner would have signalled interest in hearts, and indeed declarer would have thrown a heart on the 4th diamond, showing which suit he wanted to discard. So Wales started 10 imps down. ☹ The Outreds for Scotland had handled it by making a slam try over a 22-23 NT hand, and the big hand leaping to 6D to accept and offer that suit as trumps – neat!

and then two boards later

A9864 KJ73
42 AKQ98
8 K9
AQT65 K9

England took a shot at 6N on this after discovering they were missing an ace and the queen of trumps (the spade fit having been found) and they were rewarded with a club lead from 82 at trick one and wrapped up 12 tricks. Wales stopped in 5S for 11 imps out this time. ☹

But things picked up after that; England missed the good slam on board 5 (as did the Patrons team and Ireland) and the match became close again. And slam interest arose again on board 7 ...

J8765
QJ82
J
T84
Q32
A43
AQT43
32
AK4
T975
K98763
--
T9
K6
4
AKQJ9765

We have to accept this as a more difficult hand to bid, as two tables stopped in a part-score. BJ O'Brien stole the hand for Ireland by opening 3N as South and the opposition did not bid, but elsewhere it started 1C-X-P or 1C-1D-X. For England David Kendrick as East tried 2C over the double and then 4C but South's 5C bid blocked any positive response. Note how if the West hand had a doubleton heart and three clubs, slam would have been easy. It's not obvious for West to treat three or four low clubs as a great asset, but they would be here.

Wales bid 5D as East on the first round, and when South didn't unblock the HK on the first round of that suit, Wales produced the end play to get an overtrick. Patrick J was up to avoiding that in the other room for a gain of 1 imp.

The final tally was a 13 imp win over England, which could have been so close to 20-0 were it not for the early slam disasters. Ireland remained in the lead ahead of Scotland, with Wales third with two tense matches to come – Ireland v Wales & Scotland v England. Wales could still win overall by a good win over Ireland, and Scotland could sneak through if they beat England and the Ireland-Wales result helped them.

WALES & IRELAND. The hands failed to produce much excitement, with no double figure swings in this match (two in each of the others) and a steady drift of small swings to Ireland.

A2 875
T 7643
AQJ5 KT73
AKQ762 54

This hand was an opportunity which 5 tables missed; the auction started for most 1C-<2S>-P-P and even though opener offered up 3D, partner was having none of it and the excellent game (and playable slam) went begging. Only Greenwood-Anderson succeeded – when the opposition didn't overcall in second seat, and the weak hand passed the 1C opener, and could now compete comfortably with 3D after LHO had bid 1N and it proceeded 2D-2S. Opener, of course, bid game.

Wales lost this match by 2-29 imps and that left Ireland uncatchable. England needed a 19 imp win to overtake Scotland for second place but in fact lost by 6 imps, and Patrons beat the North to leave the latter in bottom place. Well done to Ireland – two years running now – and this is a good start for a team which might get to play in Chennai in the autumn (if any team drops out they are reserves for the D'Orsi bowl after coming 7th in Croatia). If they get there we wish all the best to them – for the moment congratulations to Micheal & Padraig O'Briain, Gay Keaveney & Pat McDevitt, BJ O'Brien & Michael MacDonagh (captained by Peter Goodman). And well done too to the organisers – a most enjoyable weekend.

THE END